



## Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

*Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet*

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### Contact: Gwen Heffner

Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

859-985-5448

[gwen.heffner@ky.gov](mailto:gwen.heffner@ky.gov) [debby.giannini@ky.gov](mailto:debby.giannini@ky.gov)

### Contact: Belle Jackson

Director, Berea Tourism

859-986-2540

[belle@berea.com](mailto:belle@berea.com)

## American Style Magazine Readers Rank Berea Among Top 25 Art Cities

*Berea Honored for its Commitment to Arts and Arts Tourism*

**BEREA, Ky.** – AmericanStyle magazine's annual readers' poll recommends **Berea**, as a top arts destination for collectors and travelers who love galleries, museums and arts festivals. This ranking and designation is highly coveted by tourism and arts promoters and confirms Berea as the "Folk Arts & Craft Capital of Kentucky."

Each year, readers tell AmericanStyle their favorite cities for viewing and buying fine craft and art. In the 2012 AmericanStyle poll, **Berea** has been ranked No. 21 among small cities, a category that includes such destinations as Sarasota, Fla. (No.1); Asheville, N.C. (No. 3); Santa Fe, N.M. (No. 5); Taos, N.M. (No. 11); and Laguna Beach, Calif. (No.16).

Berea is the only Kentucky city to receive recognition in the small cities category. Berea was ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in small cities with populations of less than 100,000, up from 25<sup>th</sup> place in 2009.

While AmericanStyle's readers are arts and travel enthusiasts, many are also supporters of their local and regional arts scenes. New and established galleries, museums, arts tours, festivals and public art installations all influence reader choices.

"A healthy arts scene improves a city's livability and its tourism, and many of the winning cities recognize that," says Wendy Rosen, publisher of AmericanStyle. "The arts are proven catalysts for economic development and recovery, creating jobs and making opportunities for entrepreneurs."

The town of Berea has long been known for embracing the arts, and today it is known for its history, beauty, shops and studios, galleries and events. Berea is also home to the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, the Working Studio Artists tours, the Berea Arts Council, Berea College's Christmas Country Dance School, Berea Arena Theater, the Berea Center for Arts, Berea College Student Crafts, Berea College's Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, and an array of workshops presented through the city's annual Festival of Learnshops.

In addition to Berea, the other Kentucky city on this year's AmericanStyle list is Louisville, ranking 23<sup>rd</sup> among big cities with populations of 500,000 and greater.

Dedicated to showcasing the work of Kentucky's many outstanding artisans, the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea exit 77. Inside, visitors find exciting opportunities to shop for Kentucky-made crafts, musical recordings, foods, fine art and books; view special exhibitions; explore Kentucky crafts and history; sample Kentucky cuisine; experience Kentucky hospitality and enjoy full traveler services.

The Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For information about the center's programming, call 859-985-5448 or visit the center's website at [www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov](http://www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov)

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



AmericanStyle magazine is a lifestyle publication for arts enthusiasts, collectors and travelers. Through the poll, readers tell AmericanStyle where they've been going to view, enjoy and shop for great art. They share their discoveries of new and upcoming galleries and museums, arts tours and public installations, all of which help the magazine showcase emerging destinations as well as old favorites. Complete results of the readers' poll can be found at <http://www.americanstyle.com> and in the May 2012 issue of AmericanStyle, now on newsstands and at top booksellers.



Berea – the Arts and Crafts Capital of Kentucky